GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:916
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER
Gawali (Patil) Ms. Bhavana;Girri Shri Maheish;Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil;Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the groundwater lifting in the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) notified areas where the ground water table is decreasing in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the list of the CGWB notified areas in the country including Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any mechanism/criteria to prohibit/control/monitor extraction of groundwater and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from any State Government for groundwater recharging on a large scale to improve groundwater table including Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the present status of the projects and the fund allocation in the current year, project-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Section 3(3) of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development, wherein exploitation of ground water for any use other than drinking & domestic purposes is not permitted. The details of areas notified by CGWA is given at Annexure-I. No area in Maharashtra has been notified.

(c) In the notified Blocks/Talukas/Areas, permission to construct new bore wells is not granted, except for drinking and domestic purpose. In non-notified areas, CGWA accords "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" for withdrawal of ground water for new and expansion of industrial/infrastructure/mining projects based on guidelines/ criteria fixed for evaluation of such projects. Regulations are being enforced through the concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors and in cases of reported violations/ shortcomings in implementation of directives of CGWA, the concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors have been authorized to take necessary action as per the provisions of Section 15 to 21 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides, a Model Bill has been circulated to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its effective regulation and development.

(d) & (e) There is no scheme for Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water during XII Plan Period in this Ministry. Further, no proposal has been received from any State Government for ground water recharging on large scale to improve ground water table including Maharashtra.

Ministry of Rural Development had taken up 2009951 works pertaining to water conservation and water harvesting under MGNREGA during the financial year 2013-14, out of which 118438 have been completed.